

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of February 3, 2015 meeting

Members present: Al Cyr (chair), Charlie Galgowski, Shep Stearns, Ed. Hall, Kathleen Paterson, Vicky Wetherell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff).

Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Vicky was appointed acting secretary.

Minutes of the January 6, 2015 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Mansfield Tomorrow Plan The committee reviewed the Public Hearing draft and authorized Kathleen to write the Committee's comments.

Mansfield Grown Brochure Jennifer reported that the list of farms is being revised and the brochure will be printed shortly.

Farmers Forum The committee approved an agenda for this meeting on March 4, which will begin with a tour of the EO Smith Vo-Ag center at 6:30 followed by the forum at 7:00.

New Business

Future Meetings The committee's regular meeting on March 3 will be cancelled. The committee will meet at 6:00 on March 4 before the Farmer's Forum to approve an agenda for our next regular meeting on April 7, when agriculture committees from nearby towns are invited join us to discuss regional issues and projects.

Announcements

- Jennifer informed the committee that the Ashford Agriculture Commission has asked the committee to cosponsor two presentations for the local farming community on Soil Health and on Farm Financial Planning. The committee agreed to do so.
- Vicky informed the committee about a recent NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to The Last Green Valley and its partners for a Promoting Soil Health project that local farmers may want to participate in.
- Jennifer informed the committee that Working Lands Alliance has asked Mansfield to participate in its Gaining Insights, Gaining Access project to identify opportunities to increase access to farmland.
- The committee accepted with regret Charlie's announcement that he is retiring from the committee. The committee expressed appreciation for his many contributions during his 17 years of service and asked if he would be willing to serve as a consultant to the committee, which he agreed to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Next meeting is on March 4 at 6:00.